**Project application for funding under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) call Capacity Building Strand 2b**

**About the call**

**Call ID**: I3-2023-CAP2b <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/I3-2023-CAP2b>

**Duration of projects**: 24 months

**Maximum grant per project**: between EUR 500,000 – EUR 1,500,000 per project, but this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

**Deadline for submission**: 14 November 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

**Scope (summary):** The [Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3)](https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument_en) creates linkages for interregional collaboration bringing together actors from different EU regions investing in joint innovation projects along [S3 priorities](https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do#:~:text=Smart%20specialisation%20is%20a%20place%2Dbased%20approach%2C%20meaning%20that%20it,to%20make%20choices%20for%20investment.) and close to the market. (…) As output, Strand 2b projects refer to the concrete experimentation of new approaches, solutions and good practices to engage in interregional innovation processes mobilising ecosystems and in particular SMEs. Projects are expected to deliver a pipeline of potential interregional investments as well as business and investment plans. The strengthening of the competitiveness and of the resilience of EU innovation systems will help Europe to face particularly societal and economic challenges on its transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world.

More information about the call in the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/i3-2023-cap2b?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=44416173)

**About our proposal**

**Project acronym:** **SPACE-CAP**

**Project Title:** Strategic Partnership for Advanced Capacity Enhancement in the European AeroSpace Sector

**Potential countries/regions involved**: Developing countries: Latvia (2 confirmed partners), Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal, other regions that qualify as developing. Developed countries: Germany (1 confimed partner).

**Sectors:** Sector: Aerospace industry with more focus to the space sector, all industry sectors contributing to Aerospace and especially space industry; sectors that can benefit from aerospace and especially space sector achievements.

**Project snapshot and focus:** The SPACE CAP project focuses on capacity building within the aerospace industry by identifying best practices and creating new, resilient value chains that integrate with existing large-scale aerospace networks. The project will provide specialized training and masterclasses for stakeholders across the quadruple helix model (academia, industry, government, and civil society), fostering skills development and cross-sectoral collaboration. Through these initiatives, SPACE CAP aims to strengthen Europe's aerospace ecosystem, drive innovation, and enhance the global competitiveness of small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in aerospace.

Activities: The project will provide capacity building and support to innovation intermediaries, SMEs and other stakeholders to develop collaborative projects in sectors related to aerospace, while promoting collaboration activities (including site visits and demonstrations) that will enhance their capacity to work together and successfully apply to further funding opportunities (I3-Strand 1 and 2A, Interreg, ESA, Horizon Europe, ERASMUS, private, etc.).

At the end of the project, participants will be more equipped to prepare projects, apply for funding, and work together effectively. Participants will also have the opportunity to expand their contacts and work directly with a large network of partners from regions with similar challenges and common interests, while contributing to their respective regional strategies, as well as generate new value chains, get knowledge how the large AeroSpace industry value chains operate and join already existing value chains.

In sum, the project will take stock of the vast potential of the AeroSpace industry and focus on achieving:

* General quintuple helix model awareness about AeroSpace industry.
* Capacity raising for SMEs to develop new innovative ideas and projects in AeroSpace industry, join existing value chains, identify new value chains, set-up new partnerships.
* On-site best practice visits, reporting and sharing of good practices, masterclasses from AeroSpace industry top players.
* Combination of two methods: top-down (top – large AeroSpace industry value chains requirements) and bottom-up (bottom - SMEs and othere identify challenge and opportunity, team-up and offer new innovation solution to large AeroSpace industry value chains).
* Foster policy maker knowledge about AeroSpace industry, industry achievement and potential in global market.
* Job Creation and Economic Growth with main focus on youth involvement in AeroSpace related industries.
* Develop policy recommendation for regional policy makers and EU level policy level

**Workplan/ Main activities:**

**WP1. Project Management and Coordination | Duration: M1–M24**

**WP2. Regional and interregional ground setting | Duration: M1–M8**

* + Match regional priorities with the needs and strengths of regional stakeholders; opportunities and barriers for interregional collaboration, large value chains.
	+ Identifying potential collaboration and Investment Opportunities.
	+ Action plan for regional development and interregional collaboration within the project, describing the alignment with each S3.

**WP3: Capacity Building and Training | Duration: M4–M15**

* + Needs Assessment at regional and interregional level, unique selling point
	+ Capacity Building for Public Authorities and Innovation Intermediaries. Topics: Investment portfolio identification; fostering collaboration and facilitating interregional collaborations; understanding relevant European funding programs.
	+ Capacity Building for SMEs and other Stakeholders. Topics: Innovation as resilience; From idea to project: defining a concept; Partnership building; Identification of funding opportunities; partnership set-up.

**WP4: Fostering collaboration and investment | Duration: M10–M24**

* + Promoting Collaboration at Regional and Interregional Level: as a “practical part” of the capacity building, select project ideas and apply collaboration methodologies to further develop collaborative projects. Examples of activities:
* Site visits for networking and learning from successful innovation projects.
* Co-creation workshops and innovation labs at regional and interregional level.
* Supporting intermediaries in facilitating collaboration of stakeholders on specific projects.
	+ Consolidating business cases and investment plans for future funding opportunities of the most promising projects.
	+ Knowledge Transfer and Replication: Sharing of best practices; guidelines and toolkits to replicate successful collaboration methodologies across regions.

**WP5: Dissemination, Exploitation, and Sustainability | Duration: M1–M24**

* + Communication and dissemination strategy design, implementation and monitoring, including community engagement (outreach events, workshops, information sessions), project events, engage with relevant EU networks.
	+ Exploitation and Sustainability plan including development of innovation roadmaps for continued collaboration and upscaling of projects; integration into international networks and partnerships to leverage broader support for innovation ecosystems.